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President McKinley's Latest Utterances.

Some of the latest utterances of President McKinley are certain to become historic, and to be often quoted in future years. At least, such ought to be the case. If a hundredth part of the intense fervor is hereafter put into their consideration and practical application in the national life that has been exhibited in the public expression of admiration and laudation of the late President, it will be well indeed for the country. We cannot conceive of anything which would do more to check the corrupting tendencies now confessedly prevailing, and to restore a sober and healthy national spirit, than the serious acceptance and practice of the principles which lay at the bottom of these utterances. The nation has done well to quote them, italicized and double-leaded, and to post them everywhere in conspicuous places; but does the nation know that it has thereby set the seal of its most solemn condemnation on much of what it has recently been doing and allowing?

These utterances, we believe, reveal the real spirit and principles of the late President, which he would have carried out to the utmost in his official actions but for certain serious limitations, as we see the matter, criticism of which it is not here in place to repeat. We are greatly pleased that these principles, which are the only rational account of so much that was

admirable and lovable in his character and life, made themselves so conspicuous in his last days.

There were four of these utterances, two in his last address and two after he was stricken down, each of which deserves close attention.

His very last understood words were that it had been his constant prayer that he might live nearer to his God. Men are very apt, when they speak at all, to give utterance to their deepest life and purposes when death is at their gates. Are all those who have lauded Mr. McKinley to the skies—a large part of the nation—ready to accept and follow this deepest law of life,—God's presence and will? What an amazing transformation we should see in the public character and aims of the people, if this were done! It is the fashion to-day to be agnostic, to make little account of God, even to boast of having gotten beyond the need of Him, to live as if He were not, to ignore the moral significance of life, or to set up ambitious and mercenary schemes as if they were the chief end of man, and gaily to set aside the simplest principles of righteousness and love, on which both in His Word and in the human heart He has laid the supreme stress. What the nation needs above all other things at the present hour is to return to simple, sincere worship of God, and in humiliation to abandon its adoration of the idols of material wealth, power and position.

Equally worthy of all acceptance were President McKinley's words about the assassin by whom he had been shot down: "Let no one hurt him," or words to that effect. Others raved, and swore, and cried for vengeance, and wished they had been present to blow in pieces the wretch. Throughout the nation men of sense and Christian conduct, at ordinary times, talked as if they had never heard of the Christ, and as if the original three Furies had suddenly entered into them. The stricken President thought and spoke of the miserable man who had smitten him, in that kindly and merciful way which made one instinctively think of the Man of the Cross. Lynching! There were in heart a million lynchers that day, lawless men of blood, but the President was not one of them. And if lynching, with kindred forms of lawlessness at home and abroad, is ever banished from the land, it will only be by the possession and exhibition of the spirit shown by the lamented President that day in Buffalo. Every citizen who speaks the praises of McKinley's noble conduct at that dark moment, and does not at the same time abandon in